

10 June 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH : General Counsel  
Deputy Director for Plans  
Deputy Director for Support  
Executive Director-Comptroller

SUBJECT : Release of Trace Metal Detection  
Technique to Law Enforcement  
Officials

1. This memorandum proposes action to disseminate the Trace Metal Detection Technique to law enforcement officials and contains a recommendation in this regard for your approval in paragraph 7.

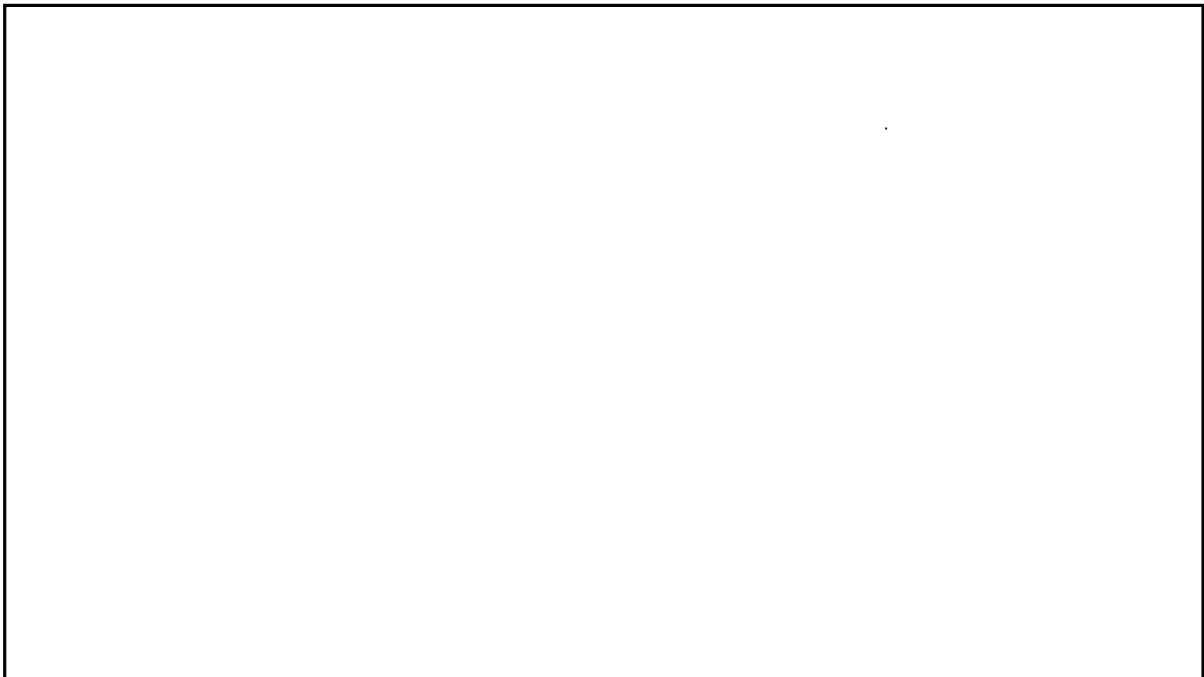
2. In recent discussions you have had with [REDACTED] SAVA, you authorized the declassification of the Agency Trace Metal Detection Technique and directed that it be made available to law enforcement authorities throughout the United States. In implementation of your instructions, we have already demonstrated this technique to representatives of the Washington Metropolitan Police Department, Fairfax, Arlington, Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties, the Baltimore Police Department, and the Maryland and Virginia State Police. In addition, we are now in the process of conducting similar demonstrations for metropolitan police departments in those cities [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Parallel with our action in this regard, I convened a special meeting of the Security Committee of the United

States Intelligence Board with observers from all other non-USIB departments and agencies who have law enforcement responsibilities and the technique was demonstrated to them.

3. In all of these briefings, we emphasized that this technique was developed by the Agency for use in Vietnam and that it had been declassified by you with instructions that it was to be made available to all public and federal law enforcement officials in this country as a public service. I stated that the only stipulation imposed was that the Agency would appreciate it if recipients of this technique would do what they could to restrict it to law enforcement use and that there be no public connection between the technique and this Agency.

4. The reaction to the technique by all federal and public law enforcement officials, who have attended these demonstrations, and who have been given the technique and the formula, has been one of amazement at its simplicity and its potential for use in criminal investigations. In addition, all of the heads of the police departments that have been the recipients of this technique thus far have asked that I convey to you their appreciation for making available to them such an effective tool for use in their work.



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First of all, the Association represents only a portion of the national police community. Secondly, it would be difficult to conceal Agency origin of this technique in demonstrating it to the various regional meetings of the Association held during each year. Finally, friction has developed between the Association and Mr. John Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, over the past several years and it is probable that Mr. Hoover would resent our use of the Association in invading what he has traditionally considered his exclusive domain. For these reasons, we believe that the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration is the best vehicle to expand dissemination of this technique to all public law enforcement officials in the United States.

6. There is no question but that the action you have taken in making this technique available to both federal and public law enforcement officials in this country as a public service will further cement our very close relationships with these officials. In addition, everyone agrees that this action is a very real and timely public service which will provide law enforcement officials with an added capability which they sorely need in meeting the rising wave of crime throughout the nation.

7. It is, therefore, recommended that you approve of the selection of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration as the appropriate vehicle to expand dissemination of this technique to all public law enforcement officials in the United States. In this connection, I have prepared for your signature a proposed memorandum to the Attorney General to provide the basis for further discussions and implementing action between operating officials of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration and this Office.

Howard J. Osborn  
Director of Security

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Attachment

CONCURRENCE:

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[Redacted Signature]

Lawrence R. Houston  
General Counsel

10 June '70  
Date

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[Redacted Signature]

Thomas H. Karamessines  
Deputy Director  
for Plans

10 June 70  
Date

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[Redacted Signature]

R. L. Bannerman  
Deputy Director  
for Support

15 June 70  
Date

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[Redacted Signature]

L. K. White  
Executive Director-Comptroller

18 June 70  
Date

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